AMID PAST TRIUMPHS

Mrs. William Astor Lives in Solitary Splendor.

WRECK OF A SOCIETY LEADER

Since Her Recent Collapse She Has Been Under Constant Care of Alienists-Imagines She Is Still a Social Autocrat and Plans Balls and Entertainments that Never Occur.

Mrs. William Astor, the greatest and last of the supreme leaders of New York society, never again will sit upon her throne, says the Chicago Chronicle's New York correspondence. The scepter and the crown are still hers. They will remain with her to the end, but the fingers that grasp the scepter are sadly, tremulously irresolute. The head is too tired to bear the burden of the crown,

There will be no Astor ball this season. There cannot be, for Mrs. Astor will not be able to entertain. Society significantly and regretfully remarked her absence the opening night of the opera at he Met-ropolitan. In her place sat a vicegerent, her daughter, Mrs. Orme Wilson. So the whispers ran from box to box around the opera house that what had been feared by her friends and discreetly hinted at in boudoirs and over teacups was

Mrs. Aster was brought to her town house at 842 Fifth avenue, two months ago. Previously she had been in Newport, whither she was taken from Boston after an illness that prostrated her at the Hotel Somerset and which aroused the keenest apprehensions of her family.

All of her life—she is now nearly seven-ty-nine—Mrs. Aster had been remarked for her polse, her excellence sense, and her repressive inclinations. None of the oddities of manner which usually presage the advance of age marred her demeanor.

But last summer there was a change. As much as her strength would permit she plunged into the gayeties of the vari-ous resorts which she visited. This was startling, for Mrs. Astor for years had shunned such things. Her high spirits were noticeably at variance with her customary placidity. She ranged the fashionable shops of London and Paris, buying lavishly of the beautiful garments which were laid out for her inspection.

crowning triumph of her career.

None of the toilets which she chose was suitable for an elderly woman. They were of brilliant hues and radiant mawere such as would be worn by a girl of

A Sudden Collapse,

With them she ordered coquettish little ful of these fripperies, representing a the first time here. great sum, were examined by the customs

who could be obtained.

stant, day or night. Dictated by the cir-cumstances, a menage of extraordinary stant, day or night. Dictated by the circumstances, a menage of extraordinary character has been created in the Astor mansion. It revolves about Mrs. Astor and has been aranged to suit her whims are considered. and has been aranged to suit her whims and moods. Her old and faithful servants are important elements in it. Acting under orders from Mrs. Astor's children-Colonel John Jacob Astor, whose man sion adjoins that of his mother; Mrs. Orme Wilson, and Mrs. Haig-the servants exert themselves to humor her eccentricities and obey her orders to the letter, so far as they may be for her welfare. She is under no physical restraint, but there are no regular hours for service in the Astor mansion.

Night after night the watchman in front sees the light flash up in the drawing rooms, the conservatory, the guest chamam will dash up to the porte-cochere with a yawning coachman and footman on the box. The portal will swing open, perhaps, and a slim figure, wrapped in furs and sustained by two serving men, will come to the thresheld. craves music. Not infrequently a brough-

her to the top of her bent. The engraved and a band of real Sioux Indians. cards, with a line blank for the date, are brought out, names of the guests whom she designate are written in, and the en-

She checks off the list. Querulously she debates upon the eligibility of this woman or that man. Then the bundles of invitations are borne from the room on a silver salver by a servant and burned in the fur-nace. It does not matter to Mrs. Astor.

She forgets. Mind Acts Inversely.

In the daytime she drives, not often, but whenever she cannot be persuaded to remain indoors. It is typical of her cor tion that she regards persons and objects inversely. This renders her amenable to control by taking a contrary position. If it is not thought best to permit her to drive, Dr. Flint, the nurse, Col. Aster or one of her servants will suggest that she go out in the carriage. Mrs. Astor will decide not to go. When she will not eat, she is told that she cannot have food. She orders it, to prove her mastery of affairs in her own household,

and food is brought to her.
She has conceived the idea that the doorways in the mansion are incorrectly placed; that the arched tops should be on the floor and the sills at the ceiling. She ordered a table fastened to the ceiling of one of her private apartments, declaring that the guests whom she expected to dinner could not be seated comfortably

in any other way. The table was secured as she wanted it, but she was not satisfied that it could not be used until she had had a stepladder fetched and vainly essayed to climb it to

get to the table. She accosts her servants and other attendants by the names of her friendsthose who have shared with her the social success of the past and present genera-tion. This one is Mrs. Fish, that Mrs. Belmont, the other Ward McAllister, another Mrs. Oelrichs, a maid Mrs. Vanderbilt, and so on. Those who have seen Richard Mansfield in the final act of "Beau Brummel" can imagine these distressing and heartrending scenes.

DAILY FASHION HINT.



It Was Seen at the Horse Show.

Among the smartest waists seen at the Horse Show was the model illustrated, of plaided green silk worn with a remarkably well-tailored suit. The for me, absolutely and positively, that blouse portion, draped over an elaborate lace chemisette, was slashed and there is nothing in my physical contrimmed with bands of the silk, piped with plain, green silk of a darker hue, dition which has prompted this suit, nearly black, in fact. The sleeves, very full and decorated with bands of silk, applied in the same fashion as upon the blouse, ended at the elbow with a rabbit deny is the infamous charge of blackmall ear fall of lace. A well-made bow of dark-green silk like that used for the pipings was placed at the bust line. A belt of folded silk completed the design.

NEXT WEEK'S PLAY BILLS.

Nat C. Goodwin, the popular comedian, comes to the Columbia Theater next which were laid out for her inspection. She talked of a social season in New York this winter which should be the on the American stage who has as wide patrons of this popular theater and the rowning triumph of her career.

"I am growing younger and younger one with better natural abilities or a actress. "East Lynne" will be given for every day," she frequently told friends. wider experience, and, when he gives himself faithfully to his work, no one the first half of the week, and beginning the first half of the week, and beginning the first half of the week, and beginning the story of the meeting of Thursday "Camille" will be presented if I should himself faithfully to his work, no one the story of the meeting of the story of the story of the story of the meeting of the story of more capable of thoroughly entertaining an audience. Mr. Goodwin will present three plays during the week. On Monday terials, the most daring conceptions of the Parisian modistes. Most of the gowns big success of his New York season, "The Genius." On Wednesday and Thursday evenings he will be seen as Richard Carewe in that favorite modern comedy, 'When We Were Twenty-one." On Fri day and Saturday nights, and at the Sathats, confections such as she had never the hats, confections such as she had never the hats are the hats and the hats are the hat

Readers have no doubt noticed on the An ominous collapse sent her to bed al- billboards of the city small posters printmost as soon as she gained the shelter ed in queer-looking letters. The queer-of the Hotel Somerset. Specialists were looking letters are Hebrew, and the of the Hotel Somerset. Specialists were sent for, among them being Dr. Austin Flint of this city. Their verdict at that time has been fully confirmed by her state since she came to New York in October. Other alienists and physicians learned in diagnosing and coping with the maladies and infirmities of the oid have watched her constantly. Their opinions coincide with the judgment of Dr. Flint.

Among her medical attendants besides in the chorus has added much to the tone and volume. A new director the the tone and volume. A new director has been engaged in the person of Mr. Sydney Lloyd Wrightson, and only local talent will be used in the solo parts. Miss Franceska Kasparand Mile, Hardentickey will be the sopranos; Miss Clara for the deeperson of Mr. Sydney Lloyd Wrightson, and only local talent will be used in the solo parts. Miss Franceska Kasparand Mile, Hardentickey will be the sopranos; Miss Clara for the deeperson of Mr. Sydney Lloyd Wrightson, and only local talent will be used in the solo parts. Miss Franceska Kasparand Mile, Hardentickey will be the sopranos; Miss Clara for the was courtesy itself and kind-which, by their ability to depict types est of tragedy, has won for them a large following. The Yiddish this company uses is in jargon, consisting mainly of German, with a slight sprinkling of Hebrew, and is not at all difficult to understand.

Among her medical attendants besides Among her medical attendants besides and is not at all difficult to understand. Dr. Flint, are his son. Austin Flint, jr., This company has at its head four of the who virtually lives in the Astor mansion; most distinguished players of the day—Dr. Allan MacLean Hamilton, and Dr. Mr. David Kessler, Mme. Kenny Lipzin, Charles R. Dana. Their orders are carried out by the three of the best nurses

Mr. David Ressier, Mile. Remly David Ressier, Mile formances only-on Wednesday Mrs. Astor is never alone for an in- Thursday next at the Belasco Theater-

> The regular series of lectures of Dwight Elmendorf at the New National Theater has closed, but he will deliver his talk-"Palestine: A Journey on Horseback Through the Holy Land"-Thursday afternoon, December 20, at 4:30. Mr. Elmen-dorf gave up one entire lecture season to devote his time to this interesting little Del., with a seating capacity of 2,000. country, and carefully produced material It will be ready for business next fall, for this journey from Joppa to Damascus. if the plans of the promoters are real-

Egbert Van Alstyne and Louise Henry, in "Sal Skinner," will be the leading feabers, the ballroom, wherever Mrs. Astor directs. Faint strains of music will creep through the massive doors and double windows. In hor rections a series that Julia ture at Chase's next week. This playlet is heralded as the "Old Homestead" of vaudeville, and it will include several the leading feature of the parties. windows. In her restlessness she often craves music. Not infrequently a brough-

A shake of the head and the little group vanishes inside. A footman waves to the Chas. E. Blaney's latest melodramatic night next month. Fritz Williams and am married, but my home is nothing to coachman and the carriage returns to the effort, "Young Buffalo, King of the Wild stables. Mrs. Astor has been persuaded West." Young Buffalo until last year, is not to set out in the dead of night to pay said to have been a reality, and the story of the play is his experiences on Mrs. Astor is possessed of the idea that she is still at the zenith of her power and glory as leader of society. She sits at her company to portray the various roles, as desk and with her secretary or companion well as to make the production true to plans state dinners, grand balls, little supper parties after the opera. They indulge is strong. The company numbers thirty

> The Dreamland Burlesquers will be the attraction at the New Lyceum Theatre for the week commencing Monday, December 17th. The show has been pro-nounced one of the best of its kind ever organized. The burlesque of "Roseland, with its magnificent scenery and electrical effects, affords opportunity for the introduction of a merry chorus of twenty young women

So favorable has been the impression created by Kathryn Purnell and her com

Musical Gifts

EVERYTHING HERE

-FROM-"A Tin Whistle

A Church Organ'

The glad spirit of Christmas may the glad spirit of Christians may be expressed in no more joyous way than through the medium of music—which, in one form or another, has been the solace of all the

ages.

Let the Xmas offering be a musical offering—a PIANO, or any of the many other beautiful musical instruments to be found here, for it has been aptly said that we have everything musical in this house from "a tin whistle to a church organ."

Sanders & Stayman, 1327 F Street.

TELLS OF PELL SUIT

Miss Robert Gives First In-

Denies Charge of Blackmail, and Says Relative of President Roosevelt Promised to Get a Divorce and Marry Her When She Learned He Was a Married Man.

In her first authorized statement Miss Alma Robert, who has sued young Theodore Roosevelt Pell for \$25,000 damages for alleged breach of promise, to-day quoted the foregoing declaration, which, she said, was made by him to her at their final interview last summer, when they met for the last time.

out so bitterly for me, I want you to say

"The second thing I authorize you to that they make against me. It is their last resort, and they counted on this black accusation to frighten me and make me feel like abandoning my righteous

week. She will present two strong plays, "With the two bitterly unfair, untrue, "East Lynne," and "Camille," both old nd unkind things that have been said branded as faisehoods, and with no wish to do aught save to give, as best I may the facts-once so pleasant, now so unhappy to me-I will tell for the first time, admiration for him, which grew into love For the annual performance of Handel's woman, and of my awakening to find in 'Messiah," which has come to be an es- him, not the true lover, the ardent swain tablished custom of the Washington that he had led me to believe, but one Choral Society, Friday, December 21, has who had deceived me grossly while his been selected. The concert will be given lips and his pen told me fervently of his at the First Congregational Church, and great love.

the proceeds will be devoted to the bene- "It was in 1894 that we first met. in the changed conditions of the Choral chief sponsor, to the office of the firm Society and the novel arrangements for with which Mr. Pell was associated. My bject was to find suitable quarters for The society itself has been completely the sessions of the school. I met Teddy reorganized, and the number of new Pell-he wasn't Teddy to me then-when

the basses. There will be both organ and plane accompaniment-Mr. Arthur Mayo at the piano, and Mr. S. Frederick Smith

The floating theater enterprise on the Mississippi River wasn't able to keep its head above water financially and to me always. It was less than a year

this season, according to her manager. The profits claimed are \$40,000. Arrangements have been made to

the leading feature of the performance.

Annie Yeamans will be in the company. me. I love you and you only,'

at the organ. ABOUT PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

pany in "Sapho," at the Majestic Thea-

tre, that she is to remain for another

for the remainder of the engagement.

The Chicago point of view is remark-

terview in \$25,000 Case.

'TOLD ME HOW HE LOVED ME"

New York, Dec. 12.-"I married for money. Now, dear heart, I want to marry for love. It is because I love you and only you, and never have loved until I met you, that I intend to get a divorce, and then we will be happy together in our own home. I love you, I love you, I

Stung to the quick by the accusations made against her immediately subsequent to the bringing of the suit, Miss Robert decided only to-day to fly in the face of the advice of her counsel and make a statement which would serve as a denial to these accusations and innuendoes. To this end Miss Robert, at her home, 26 West Forty-sixth street, spoke as follows: "First of all, before I go into the details of the love story that has turned

Tells of Their First Meeting.

Proposal of Marriage.

"He called upon me here and met my sister. Then he called again, and it was not long before there was not a day when I did not see him. For more than year he called not less than twice every day. He brought flowers and bonbons. and, what was more, kind, loving words after we met that he said to me one night: 'Al'-he always called me Al-'I Mme. Schumann-Heink has made a love you dearly, and I want you to be my fortune by her concert singing already wife. You know how I care for you. I will not take no for an answer.'

"As I have admitted, and do still admit. I returned his love, and so it was agreed and settled. We told my sister about it, build a new theater at Wilmington, and frequently after that he referred to it in the presence of others.

"We went to dinners and to the theaters, and to little suppers afterward, times without number. He was with me constantly. Even when he was away A Chicago critic asserts that Julia but a short time he wrote to me-I have more than fifty of the letters-in most endearing terms.

"It was last summer that a rumor came to me that Teddy was married, and that he had been married all the time. I went straight to him, asking him to deny it. "The Aero Ciub" is the name of the true. He became confused, faltered as new dramatic thingabob that Sydney Rosenfeld has written for Lulu Glaser. It was the truth. 'I dared not tell you,' It will be produced for the first time in he pleaded. 'I loved you too much to like leafney out. I confess it is true.

FROM WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT.

If the story told of a foreign musician who has come to conquer musical America, and bids fair to do it by his genius, is true, he deserves the scorn and neglect of every self-respecting man and woman. I know that we are inclined to rate a genius by measurements not applied to ordinary mortals, to excuse rudeness and many other faults, but base ingratitude to the woman who gave him birth should not be placed in the class of faults. It is a crime-against nature, at least.

The man is accused-justly or unjustly, but quite publicly-of repudiating the mother who sold bundles of wood in the street to give him the start he needed in music. Later he became the protege of a princess, and his road to success was plain and easy. He married an American heiress, so his genius is success was plain and easy. He married an American heiress, so his genius is on secular days; from 2 p. m. to 19 p. m. on Sun not hampered by sordid things like poverty and privation. But to his self-days and on certain holidays. sacrificing mother he owes a debt that he cannot wipe out in a lifetime, try as he may, for she saved him from the working life to which his station and poverty bound him, and opened a new world for him.

It is claimed that, sanctioned by his wife-perhaps, led by her-he has cut ose from his family, trying to pay his deep obligation by a weekly pittance sent to his mother, but never giving her the great joy of seeing him. I think seven years passed since her last meeting with him, and the heart hunger that drove her to the concert hall where he was to play brought out the whole miserable story. If the man has an atom of pride he must be tasting the bitterness of humiliation, either at the public disclosure of his humble beginnings, which is probable, or at the general condemnation of his unnatural conduct.

This is not the country to frown upon humble beginnings. Our most powerful families were founded by self-made men, simple in manner and poor in pocket, and each year adds to the list of men who have achieved results with serious handicaps. They sometimes frown down their poor relations, but never lack a smile for those who have climbed like themselves, always provided that the newcomers have climbed sufficiently high. At all events, anybody with a 230 p.m. Washington great gift from nature can afford to risk unpopularity by being decent to those who have claims upon him.

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I hope the ugly story is untrue-we do not wish to add to those we know a tale that is particularly black. Mothers are making sacrifices for their children every day, and that will be the order of things as long as the world lasts. Some of them are destined to sorrow and disappointment, but the number should not increase at its present rate.

Neglect for any member of the family but the mother could be pardoned, but I can think of no atonement that would fit the crime of bringing unnecessary sorrow to a woman who has more than her share, under the best of circumstances. It is the fashion to cultivate indifference, to crush out affection and offer nothing in its place, but it is cruel to those who do not care for fashion, for those who live by the laws of nature rather than art. No mother worth the name ever forgets the child she has brought into the world, even after years of neglect, but indifferent sons and daughters are easy to find in large numbers. BETTY BRADEEN.

MiKnew's

An Exclusive Ladies' Cloak, Suit, and Furnishing House.

Gifts That Are Useful As Well As Beautiful.

You will find in this list many beautiful and appropriate Christmas remembrances for the dear ones-articles that will prove most useful and serviceable.

Gift Handkerchiefs.

Men's H. S., 1-4 to 1-inch hem, 21-2c., 18c., 25c., 35c., 50c., 75c. each. Men's Initials, 121-2c., 25c., 50c. each. Men's Corded Borders, 25c. and 50c. Ladies' H. S., 5c., 12 1-2c., 18c., 25c., Ladies' Initial, 121-2c., 25c., 50c. Ladies' Embroidered, 121-2c., 25c.,

Ladies' Embroidered, 121-2c., 25c., 50c. to \$3.00.
Ladies' Lace Trimmed, 121-2c., 25c., 50c. to \$3.00.
Child's H. S., 121-2c. and 25c.
Child's Embroidered, 25c, and 50c.
Child's Initials, 25c. box of 3.
Ladies' Corded Borders, 121-2c., 25c., 50c. Hdkf. Centers, plain, H. S. or em-broidered, 12 1-2c. and 25c.

In white, gray, black, cardinal, navy; single breasted-\$1.50, \$1.75. Ladies' Golf Blouses

Ladies' Golf Vests

In white, black, gray, cardinal, and blue-\$2.00, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.60, \$4.25. Ladies' Gloves.

Ladies' 2-clasp Kids, in all colors and black—\$1.00, \$1.60, \$1.75, \$2.00. 8-button Kid, in white, tan, brown, black, \$2.00. 12-button Kid, in white, tan, brown, and black, \$2.75, \$3.00. 16-button Kid, in white, tan, brown, and black, \$3.25, \$3.50, \$3.60. 20-button Kid, black and white only, \$3.50, \$4.00. Wool Golf Gloves, in all colors, 50c., 75c., \$1.00.

Child's Gloves.

1 C Walking, in tans, \$1.00. 1 C Mocha, lined and unlined, \$1.00. Golf Gloves, 25c., 50c.

Gift Leather Goods.

Black Seal Combination Books, 50c., 75c., \$1.00, up to \$4.50. Black Seal Clasp Pocketbooks, \$1.50. Men's Books (all styles), 50c., 75c., \$1.00, to \$2.50. Purses, small and large, 25c. and Ladies' Hand Bags, seal and mo-rocco; small, medium, and very large; \$1.00, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, up to \$10.00. Ladies' Strap Bags, suitable for calling and shopping; special values at 50c., \$1.00 and \$1.50. Beaded Bags, small and large sizes, \$1.00 to \$5.00.

Silk Opera Bags. 11.50 for Bags worth up to \$2.0 5c. for \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.75 Bags.

German Silver and Gilt Bags, \$1.25 to \$5.00.

Gift Hosiery.

Ladies' Black Silk Hose, embroidered in black and colors, \$2.25, \$2.50, \$2.75, \$3.00, and \$3.50 a pair. Ladies' Black Silk Hose, \$1.00, \$1.50, and \$2.00. Ladies' Black Silk Lisle Hose, 50c. a pair. Ladies' Black Lisle Hoşe, 35c. and 50c. a pair. Ladies' Black Lisle Hose, embroid-ered, 50c., 75c., and \$1.00 a pair.

Gift Jewelry.

Solid Gold Brooches, \$3.25, \$3.75, \$4.25, Sterling Silver Jeweled Bar Pins, gold plated, 50c., 75c., \$1.00. Hat Pins, 25c., 50c., 75c., \$1.00, \$1.50, to \$3.00. Plated Brooches, 25c., 50c., 75c., \$1.00, \$1.50. Mourning Brooches, 25c., 50c., 75c.,

Cuff Pins, two on card, solid gold, 50c., 75c., \$1.00. Bead Necklaces, 25c., 50c., 75c., \$1.50. Festoon Necklaces, \$1.25, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, to \$5.00. Gun Metal Lockets, \$1.50, \$1.75.

Gun Metal Chains, \$1.00 to \$3.75. Japanese Bric-a-Brac.

At 50c.-Vases, Hair Receivers, lowder Boxes, Jardinieres, Bonbon Powder Boxes, Jardinieres, Bonbon Dishes.

A beautiful line of Ornaments and Vases at \$1.00.
Handsome Vases, at \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$2.75, \$3.00, up to \$4.75.
Royal Rozane Ware—artistic shading—\$9c., \$1.00., \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50.

Ladies' Umbrellas.

Union Taffeta, in plain natural handles, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00.
Union Taffeta, in sterling silver and gun metal handles, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00.
All-silk, silver, ivory, and gun metal trimmed, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$5.50, \$6.00, \$7.00, \$8.00, \$9.00.

Men's Umbrellas.

Union Taffeta, plain natural wood handles, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25. All-silk, silver, horn, and ivory trim-med, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.00, \$8.00. Child's Umbrellas.

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PLACES OF INTEREST.

Congressional Library-Open 9 a. m. to 10 p. m. Public Library-Open 10 a. m. to 10 p. m. in winter; 10 a. m. to 9 p. m. in summer; holidays, usus

hours; Sundays, 2 to 10 p. m-

Executive Mansion-Open 10 a. m. to 2 p. m. United States Treasury—Open 9 a, m, to 2 p. m, State, War and Navy Departments—Open 9 a. m, to 2 p. m. (The original Declaration of Independence is in the Library of the State Department.) United States Patent Office—Open 9 a. m. to 2 p. m. United States Pension Bureau-Open 9 a. m. to

United States Post-office—Open 9 a, m, to 2 p, m, Washington City Post-office—Open all hours. The Dead Letter Office in the city post-office. National Botanic Gardens—Open 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.
Fish Commission—Open 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.
Army Medical Museum—Open 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.
National Museum—Open 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. (inluding holidays)

Smithsonian Institution—Open 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. including holidays).
Agricultural Department—Open 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.
Engraving and Printing Bureau—Open 9 a. m. to 30 p. m. Washington Monument (555% feet in height)—Open n winter: 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. in summer. Sur 1:30 p. m. to 5 p. m., expept in midsummer. Admission free on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays; other days, 25c admission.

Government Printing Office—Open 10 a. m. to 2

Navy Yard-Open 9 s. m. to 4 p. m. IN THE SUBUEBS. Mount Vernon, the home and tomb of Washington-Open 1i a. m. to 4 p. m.

Arlington National Cemetery-Open all day.
United States Soldiers' Home-Open 9 a. m. to

Sinset. Zoological Park—Open all day, Rock Creek Bridge and Park. Chevy Chase and Kensington, Naval Observatory—Open 9 a. m. to 3 p. m. Cabin John Bridge, Catholic University, and



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